The FCC has opened a new docket, dubbed the “In Re: Delete, Delete, Delete” seeking comments on every rule, regulation, or guidance document that the FCC should eliminate for the purposes of alleviating unnecessary regulatory burdens. As amateur radio falls under the jurisdiction of the FCC, it will be considered during this review. I urge the FCC and your office to preserve the current regulatory structure around amateur radio, including Title 47 CFR Part 97, frequency allocations and associated documents.

Amateur radio, also known as ham radio, is far more than a hobby—it is a crucial platform that fosters innovation and communication skills. It inspires curiosity and cultivates a spirit of lifelong learning, particularly for young people pursuing careers in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM).

More important for a discussion of deregulation, amateur radio plays a critical role in emergency response efforts. When natural disasters or other crises disrupt traditional communication systems, amateur radio operators step in to provide reliable communication, supporting emergency services and facilitating coordination. This selfless volunteerism has saved countless lives and underscores the invaluable role amateur radio operators play in public safety. At a time when the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is considering cuts and suggesting more state involvement (“Top FEMA Official Signals Staff Cuts, More State Involvement” Bloomberg Law, March 2020), state and local emergency management teams need more qualified volunteer radio operators, not less.

A recent example of ham radio contributing to emergency response includes efforts from Florida to North Carolina during Hurricane Helene (“Ham Radio Serving Southeast US Recovery Efforts” ARRL, October, 2024 and “TACN radio hailed for its crucial role for first responders during Hurricane Helene flooding”, WBIR News, March 2025). During this event, amateur radio operators played important roles when communications with state and local authorities failed due to the weather. There are numerous, less public examples that need not be enumerated here.

As currently regulated, FCC oversight of ham radio may serve as an example of efficient public / private partnership, rather than waste and over-regulation. Licensing processes are automated at the FCC, reducing staffing costs. Ham operator training and testing is handled by volunteer examiners with oversight by the Amateur Radio Relay League. Emergency management training for ham radio volunteers is conducted collaboratively with state, local authorities, amateur radio clubs and volunteers.

I urge you to support the current regulatory structure and frequency allocations in order to preserve amateur radio operators’ ability to serve the community. Furthermore, I ask you to support Senate bill S.3690, and House bill H.R.4006, which would limit the rules that homeowner associations (HOA) may impose on amateur radio setups. These bills would promote more amateur radio

participation in emergency response by easing HOA restrictions that prevent amateur radio operators from developing their skills and participation in exercises.